

URBAN DISTRICT OF MARYPORT.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health, For the Year 1904.

To THE

MARYPORT URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in submitting my report for the year 1904. The year just past was not a good one from a trader's point of view, but in a climatic sense it was a great contrast to its predecessor. The first part of the year was cold and wet, but this was followed by one of the most perfect summers of which we have any record. The effect of these contrasts is very clearly reflected in the death returns as we shall see later on.

In compiling my statistics I have made use of the same basis of population as in previous years, that is, the census returns of 1901. It is true there has been some movement of the population in this district during the last year in the direction of an increase in the East Ward, and a decrease in the North Ward owing to the closure of Carr's Mill; but as I have no means at present of estimating the amount of change I have to fall back on the old figures.

Birth Rate. 368 births were registered during the year, of which 123 occurred in the North Ward; 103 in the South Ward; and 142 in the East Ward. These figures give the following birth rates:—

North Ward	...	29·84	per 1000 of the population.
South Ward	...	24·28	" "
East Ward	...	40·19	" "
Whole District	...	30·93	" "

This is very slightly lower than the average rate of the past nine years, which was 31·14 per 1000. If our estimated population is anything like correctly allocated there is a very greatly higher birth rate in the East Ward than in the other two Wards. This has been so in previous years but not to anything like the same extent as in 1904. The birth rate in the whole of England and Wales was 27·9, and in the 142 smaller towns, with which we may be fitly compared, was 27·5 so that we are still considerably in excess of the average.

Death Rate. The total number of deaths registered during the year amounted to 207, of which 87 occurred in the North Ward; 54 in the South; and 66 in the East Ward. The death rates accordingly, are:—

North Ward	..	..	21·10	per 1,000
South Ward	..	..	12·73	" "
East Ward	..	..	18·68	" "
Whole District	..	..	17·39	" "

This is the highest death rate since 1900, and is above the average of the last nine years, which was 16·18. It is also above the average of England and Wales generally, which was 16·2, and of the 142 smaller towns which was 15·6. There was a very marked inequality between the rates of the different wards, for whilst that of the North Ward was as high as 21·1: that of the South was only 12·73. There was also very greatly more than the usual difference between the rates of the different quarters: that of the first quarter being 27·23, the highest in my experience; the second, 13·78; the third, 12·1; and the last 16·47. These figures, as has already been remarked, reflect very accurately the state of the weather throughout the year, whilst an epidemic of Whooping Cough added largely to the mortality during the first quarter. Table IV. gives the causes of death, classified according to age and locality. From this it will be seen that there were from Measles, 2 deaths; Scarlet Fever, 6; Whooping Cough, 21; Diphtheria 1; Influenza, 4; Diarrhoea, 4; Enteritis, 11; Phthisis, 13; other Tubercular diseases, 8; Cancer, 3; Bronchitis, 15; Pneumonia, 14; Pleurisy, 1; other respiratory diseases, 3; Alcoholism, 2; Venereal diseases, 1; Premature Birth, 7; Diseases and Accidents of Parturition, 2; Heart Diseases, 18; Accidents, 4; Suicides, 4; and all other causes 63. The most important of these will be noticed under separate headings.

Infant Mortality. This is again a very unsatisfactory feature in the death rate. No less than 72 deaths in children under 1 year of age occurred, representing a death rate of 195 per 1000 births registered. This is much higher than the average of the last nine years, which was 147, and is much higher than the average of England and Wales which was 146, and even of the 142 smaller towns which was 154. Of these 72 deaths 15 were from Whooping Cough ; 3 from Diarrhoea ; 10 from Enteritis ; 1 from Tuberculosis ; 5 from Bronchitis ; 4 from Pneumonia ; 3 from other Respiratory Diseases ; 7 from Premature Birth ; and 24 from all other causes.

Zymotic Death Rate. The number of deaths from the seven principal epidemic diseases was 34, equivalent to a rate of 2.85 per 1000. This is very largely in excess of our average Zymotic death rate. The causes of death under this heading were :—Measles 2 deaths ; Scarlet Fever, 6 ; Whooping cough, 21 ; Diphtheria, 1 ; and Epidemic Diarrhoea, 4. In the early part of the year Whooping Cough prevailed to an alarming extent, and was fostered by the practice in vogue of forcing the children to school though actually suffering from the disease ; so that practically all susceptible children had the disease, and though it is not particularly dangerous to life during school age, it is conveyed home to the younger children, and it is upon these that the mortality falls : all the deaths being under 5 years of age. It is not a notifiable disease and therefore less easily controlled than Scarlatina.

Phthisis, or Tuberculosis of the lungs, accounted for 13 deaths, which is equivalent to a rate of 1.09, which is somewhat above our average.

Other Tubercular Diseases. 8 cases fall under this heading making with the 13 cases of Phthisis 21, or a death rate of 1.76 for all forms of Tuberculosis,

Cancer was the cause of death in 3 cases only, equivalent to a rate of 0.25 per 1000. This is very much lower than usual.

Respiratory Diseases. 33 cases fall under this heading, of which 15 were Bronchitis ; 14 Pneumonia ; 1 Pleurisy ; and 3 other respiratory diseases.

Notification of Infectious Diseases. The number of cases notified was again very large, though there was a notable diminution in the more severe forms of disease, the huge preponderance of cases being scarlatinal. 140 cases were notified altogether, of which 4 were cases of Diphtheria ; 5 of Erysipelas ; 129 of Scarlet Fever ; and 2 of Enteric Fever. 68 cases occurred in the North Ward ; 47 in the South, and 25 in the East.

Diphtheria again shows a marked decline from 14 cases in 1903 to 4 in 1904.

Scarlet Fever was very prevalent during the last six months and was of the usual mild type.

Of the 2 **Enteric** cases both occurred in the North Ward. Every effort was made to trace the cause, but nothing was found that was calculated to cause the disease.

Two cases of failure to notify Scarlatina were brought before your Council, and orders were issued to take action against the offenders, but for various reasons it was deemed advisable to accept an apology rather than take the matter to court, and the matter dropped.

Water Supply. The annual visit to the sources of our Water Supply was made on June 21st. Fortunately the day was fine and a good deal of work was got through. A call was made at the Service Reservoir at Hayborough, and a satisfactory head of water was noted. At Dovenby the party broke up into two sections : one party visiting the filter beds at Belle Vue and the intake and pumping station at the Goat. All was found clean and satisfactory. The other party went by Redmain and Isel, along the right bank of the river. The pond at Blinderake had been drained since our last visit, and the broken wall at Isel Mill, complained of on our previous visit, had been repaired and the nuisance caused thereby abated.

The **Portinscale Sewerage Works** were visited and the result was satisfactory : no portion of the sewage reaching the river without treatment.

Keswick Sewerage Works were also visited and the result was unsatisfactory ; the settling tanks were clean enough, but a great part of the sewage was passing away by the soughs into the river without any treatment whatever. Owing to original faults it is not likely that the present system can ever be made satisfactory.

During August and September several complaints were received of the condition of the water. Some specimens which I examined showed a considerable amount of vegetable organic matter with a great many low animal organisms. Specimens were submitted to chemical and bacterioscopic analysis with results conforming to what I had observed. One of the filter beds had been washed, and the service reservoir cleaned out, and this may have partly accounted for the condition of the water ; but there must have been some other cause at work as there was no general fouling of the water supply, the objectionable specimens being found here and there. No harm appears to have resulted as we had no Enteric Fever and very little Diarrhoea ; but it shows clearly that the amount of water passed through the filters reaches, if it does not exceed, the limits of safety.

Factory and Workshops Act. There are 63 Workshops on the register, of which 8 have been added during the year. The Inspector reports that 523 inspections of Workshops and Bakehouses were made during the year 1904, and that they were generally found in a good sanitary condition, and that abstracts were fixed in each. Four notices were served for want of cleanliness, and this was at once remedied in each case. No prosecutions were made during the year.

Sanitation. On February 22nd, at the request of the Inspector, I made an examination of the back street between Lower John street and Senhouse street. A report on the condition of this street had been made in 1902, but nothing had been done to amend matters. At the time of my visit matters were in a very bad state : only half of the street was paved, and the whole was in a very broken and dirty condition, allowing pools of stagnant water to collect which, in the hot weather especially, were likely to cause trouble.

On the same date I inspected the back street between Christian street and North street, and found the same defects as in the previous case though not to the same extent.

I made a special report to the Council recommending the making up of the streets, and this has since been done.

On March 14th I inspected Eaglesfield's Yard, Nelson Street. Two of the three closets were in a disgusting condition, the wood work and the closets being broken and the liquid filth running outside and collecting into pools. The wooden staircase to the houses was also in a dangerous condition. Of the houses No. 1 was dirty, and the one bedroom had no ventilation. No. 2 was filthy in the extreme and had likewise no ventilation. Both houses were condemned and it was recommended that the whole property should be done away with.

On May 3rd I inspected No. 67 Kirkby Street, where a case of Enteric fever had been reported, but could not find any sufficient cause for the disease. The drains were tested but were found adequate.

On May 4th I inspected the remains of two water closets belonging to Nos. 68 and 70 Nelson Street. The closets and wood work had been removed, and they were simply a receptacle for filth of all kinds. Their removal was recommended, and this has since been done.

On July 11th I examined the marine store in John Street in the occupation of Mr. James Hamill. A fatal case of Diphtheria had occurred next door and two cases on the other side of it in the previous year. Foul smells were complained of by the neighbours from time to time. After the place had been well cleaned out and limewashed Mr. Hamill was allowed to store old iron and bottles, but not rags and bones or any other organic material.

During July, in company with the Sanitary Inspector, I made an inspection of the whole of the North Ward and of the portion of the South Ward within the river boundary, and reported as follows :—

" We found matters on the whole in a satisfactory condition. Most of the yards had been limewashed, and on account of the present abundant supply of water there was a notable absence of foul smells. Some of the yards wanted a good sweeping out. The most outstanding nuisance was the condition of the pavement round the gullies. Soap-suds and other fluids stand in pools around the gullies and by soaking into the ground cause pollution of the soil, which, when dried up, becomes a source of danger. They ought all to be either flagged or concreted for a space of two feet round the gullies. This applies to the great majority in the town.

" The back street between Lower John Street and Senhouse Street has been re-made, and is now in good order. That between Christian Street and North Street is also being made up in accordance with the instructions of the Council. The back street between North Street and Fleming Street would be better treated in the same way.

"In **Boyd's Yard**, **Kirkby Street**, there are seven houses with only one water closet. At least two more should be erected.

"The nuisance in **Nixon's Yard**, **Crosby Street**, from the Catholic Schools, and that in the adjoining **Globe Inn Yard**, have been abated.

"The **Stable in Wood Street** in the occupation of Mr. Atkinson is badly situated, and is too much crowded up; the ventilation is very bad and there is no proper drainage.

"The three disused cottages in **Eaglesfield's Yard**, **Nelson Street**, ought to be pulled down. They are used as receptacles for all kinds of objects, such as dead cats and dogs, and there is some danger of their falling down and causing damage.

"The two water closets at **68 and 70 Nelson Street**, complained of in last report have been removed.

"The condition of **King's Arms Yard** has been much improved by the raising of the general level of the yard, thereby obviating the soakage of fluids into the soil.

"**Whillan's Yard**, **Wood Street**, is in a dirty condition and wants re-paving.

"The condition of the pavement in **Todhunter's Yard** and **Johnston's Yard**, **Catherine street**, previously complained of has been amended.

"**Johnston's Yard** in **Furnace Road** is still unprovided with a special water supply, and the tenants have to go round to Catherine Street for it.

"The nuisance previously reported at Furnace Mill has been remedied by building a wash-house and heightening the yard, thereby directing the water into the gully.

"**The Slaughter House** has been much improved since last report. It has been limewashed throughout. The floor of the byre complained of in last report has been concreted."

Small-pox. On March 20th I received a communication from the officer commanding the 42nd Company Royal Garrison Artillery, Portsmouth, to the effect that Sergt. J. Pattie disembarked on March 9th from H.M.S. "Assaye," on which was a case of Small-pox, and had come to this district on furlough for two months. His address was given as 56 Grasslot, and on calling there I found that he had left for Penrith. I therefore forwarded the memorandum to the Medical Officer of Health for that district.

On April 7th I received a communication from the Port Medical Officer of Southampton to the effect that a case of Small-pox had occurred on board the s.s. "Sicilia," and that Sergt. Myers, whose address was given as Mandle Terrace, Netherton, had arrived in good health and was proceeding to this district. He was visited by the Inspector, and it transpired that three weeks had elapsed since contact with the disease.

Measles. On December 19th I issued a special report to your Council on the Epidemic of Measles at Netherton with a recommendation to close the infant schools for one calendar month, without prohibition of the elder children from infected homes from attending the senior schools. The recommendation was adopted and an order issued accordingly.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES LITTLE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Maryport,
Feb. 7th, 1905.

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1904 and previous years.
Maryport Urban District.

Year.	Population estimated to middle of each year.	Births.		Total Deaths registered in the District.				Deaths of Non-residents registered in Public Institutions in the District.	Deaths of Residents registered in Public Institutions beyond the District.	Nett Deaths at all Ages belonging to the District.			
		Number	Rate *	Under 1 year of Age.		At all Ages.							
				Number	Rate per 1,000 Births registered.	Number	Rate *						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
1895	11,500	378	32.87	65	172	221	19.21	—	—	221	19.21		
1896	"	366	31.82	51	139	184	16.00	—	—	184	16.00		
1897	"	370	32.17	42	113.5	163	14.17	—	—	163	14.17		
1898	11,800	356	30.16	57	160.1	189	16.01	—	—	189	16.01		
1899	"	361	30.59	38	105.2	178	15.08	—	—	178	15.08		
1900	11,850	329	28.66	62	182.8	210	17.72	—	—	210	17.72		
1901	11,896	376	31.6	66	175.5	203	17.96	2	1	203	17.96		
1902	"	378	31.77	48	126.9	178	14.96	2	1	177	14.87		
1903	"	376	31.6	63	167.5	190	15.97	2	1	190	15.97		
Averages for years 1895-1903		365	31.14	54	147.9	190	16.18	—	—	190	16.18		
1904	11,896	368	30.93	72	195.6	207	17.39	—	—	207	17.39		

* Rates in Columns 4, 8, and 13 calculated per 1,000 of estimated population.

Total Population at all ages at Census of 1901,..... 11,896
Number of inhabited houses do. 2,416
Average number of persons per house do. 4.82

I. Institutions within the District receiving sick and infirm persons from outside the District	Isolation Hospital.
	Victoria Cottage Hospital.
II. Institutions outside the District receiving sick and infirm persons from the District.....	Union Workhouse Hospital.
III. Other Institutions, the deaths in which have been distributed among the several localities in the District.....	—

The Union Workhouse is NOT within the District.

TABLE II.
Vital Statistics of separate Localities in 1904 and previous years.
Maryport Urban District.

Names of Localities Year.	1. Whole District.				2. North Ward.				3. South Ward.				4. East Ward.			
	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d	a	b	c	d
1895	11,500	378	221	65												
1896	"	366	184	51												
1897	"	370	163	42												
1898	11,800	356	189	57												
1899	"	361	178	38												
1900	11,850	329	210	62												
1901	11,896	376	203	66	4,122	138	80	30	4,241	118	83	23	3,533	120	40	13
1902	"	378	177	48	"	113	51	15	"	127	81	19	"	138	45	14
1903	"	376	190	63	"	144	75	28	"	104	63	17	"	128	52	18
Averages of Years 1894 to 1903.	11,737	365	190	54	4,122	131	68	21	4,241	116	75	19	3,533	128	45	15
1904	11,896	363	207	72	4,122	123	87	27	4,241	103	54	17	3,533	142	66	28

TABLE III.
Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1904.
Maryport Urban District.

Notifiable Disease.	Cases notified in Whole District							Total Cases notified in each locality.	No. of Cases removed to Hospital from each locality.	
	At all ages	At Ages—Years.								
		Un- der 1	1 to 5	5 to 15	15 to 25	25 to 65	65 and up- wards.	North Ward.	South Ward.	East Ward.
Small-pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	4	—	2	2	—	—	—	2	1	1
Membranous croup } ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	5	—	—	—	1	3	1	2	3	—
Scarlet fever	129	3	58	62	5	1	—	62	43	24
Typhus fever... ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric fever.....	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—
Relapsing fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	140	3	60	64	8	4	1	68	47	25

Isolation Hospital in East Ward, Maryport Urban District.

TABLE IV.
Causes of, and Ages at, Death during Year 1904.
Maryport Urban District.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Deaths in or belonging to whole District at subjoined Ages.						Deaths in or belonging to localities (at all ages).			Total Deaths in Public Insti- tutions in the District.	
	All ages	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 and upwards	North Ward	South Ward	East Ward	
Small-pox	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	—
M easles	6	3	2	1	1	1	1	4	1	1	2
Scarlet fever	21	15	6	1	1	1	1	7	6	8	1
Whooping-cough	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Diphtheria & membranous croup...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Fever { Typhus ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
{ Enteric ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
{ Other continued ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Epidemic influenza ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Cholera	4	3	1	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	11	10	1	—	—	—	—	8	3	1	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other septic diseases ...	13	—	1	—	—	—	—	5	4	4	—
Phthisis	8	1	—	3	3	9	—	3	2	3	—
Other tubercular diseases ...	3	—	—	2	2	2	—	1	1	1	—
Cancer, malignant disease ...	15	5	3	1	1	6	—	6	3	6	—
Bronchitis	14	4	2	1	2	5	—	7	2	5	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Pleurisy	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	2	—
Other diseases of respiratory organs ...	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of liver ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Venereal diseases	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature birth	7	7	2	3	2	7	—	2	3	2	1
Diseases & accidents of parturition ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Heart diseases...	18	—	—	3	8	7	—	6	10	2	—
Accidents	4	—	2	—	1	1	—	1	1	3	—
Suicides	4	—	2	—	3	1	—	1	1	2	—
All other causes	63	24	3	1	11	22	28	16	19	—	—
All causes ...	207	72	21	11	14	47	42	87	54	66	—

TABLE V.
Factories, Workshops, Laundries, Workplaces and Homework.
Maryport Urban District.

1.—INSPECTION.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections	Written Notices.	Prosecutions
Factories (including Factory Laundries)			
Workshops	523	4	—
Workplaces			
Homeworkers' Premises			
Total ...	523	4	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of Prosecu- tions.
	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—</i>				
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	—	—
Total	4	4	—	—

Total number of Workshops on Register, 1904 :—63.

